

NEWSLETTER



'Be kind, work hard and fly high'

Edition 18

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow – what a few weeks we've had at Hucknall Flying High Academy.

On Thursday 5th March, it wasn't only World Book Day at Hucknall Flying High Academy. This year, the celebration was made even more memorable by a very special guest. The Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, chose to visit Hucknall Flying High Academy specifically, making it a school of genuine national distinction.

From the moment she arrived, Ms Phillipson commented on how impressively well-behaved, articulate, and engaged the children were, noting how beautifully they applied themselves in every interaction.



During her visit, the Secretary spent time talking with pupils across the school before surprising Year 2 as their secret reader, sharing the much-loved Julia Donaldson story *Tiddler*. The children were captivated - not only by the book, but by the unexpected experience of hearing it read by the country's Education Secretary.

She was joined in the classroom by Michelle Welsh MP, who took part in a lively Question & Answer session. The children asked thoughtful, articulate questions that showcased their confidence and curiosity - qualities the Secretary praised throughout her visit.

The entire school community felt incredibly proud. Not only was this a wonderful experience for the children, but it also served as a moment of recognition: Hucknall Flying High Academy continues to shine nationally, and the visit from the Secretary of State stands as a testament to the school's remarkable work.

The children absolutely loved it, and the day will no doubt be remembered as a highlight of the school year.

Read on for other updates during our busy spring term.

Key Dates

Please keep an eye on the key dates as there will be a few additions for the summer term. Also, looking ahead we will start to populate holidays and INSET days for the next academic year.

Dates – Including Holiday Dates 2026	
March	
Wednesday 18th	2:30pm – Rocksteady Concert
Thursday 19th	School Disco
Friday 20th	Dress in red for Comic Relief - £1 donation
Tuesday 24th	9:15am EYFS Easter 'Eggs'travaganza 2025
Wednesday 25th	1:00pm Year 3/4 Easter Craft afternoon
Friday 27th	Last day of the spring 2 term
April	
Monday 13th	First day of the summer 1 term
Monday 13th	Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags
Tuesday 21st	Year 4 trip to Leicester Museum & Art Gallery
May	
Monday 4th	BANK HOLIDAY – School closed
Tuesday 5th	5:00pm Year 6 Wales Residential Parent Meeting
Monday 11th	Key Stage 2 SATS Week
Wednesday 20th	Sports Day 2025
Thursday 21st	Last day of the summer 1 term
Friday 22nd	INSET DAY – School Closed
June	
Monday 1st	First day of the summer 2 term
Monday 1st	Year 4 multiplication Check Week
Monday 8th	Phonics Screen Week
Friday 12th	7:30am Family Breakfast event
Tuesday 30th	Year 6 depart for Wales residential
July	
Friday 3rd	Year 6 return from Wales residential
Wednesday 15th	2:30pm – Rocksteady Concert
Friday 17th	School reports
Tuesday 21st	5:00pm Year 5/6 Summer Production
Wednesday 22nd	5:00pm Year 5/6 Summer Production
Friday 24th	Last day of summer 2 term

Hannah and Charlotte

We are incredibly proud to celebrate **Hannah and Charlotte in Year 6**, who have recently been awarded the **Made in Ashfield – Young Person’s Award**. This is a well-deserved achievement recognising not only the impressive number of Cub Badges they have earned, but also the positive impact they have made within their community.

Both girls embody the values of dedication, kindness, and service—qualities that shine through in everything they do. Their commitment to helping others and contributing to their local community is truly inspiring.

We can wholeheartedly vouch for their character here at school too; Hannah and Charlotte are wonderful ambassadors for Hucknall Flying High Academy, consistently demonstrating responsibility, compassion, and leadership.

A huge well done to both of them—we couldn’t be prouder!



Discover Ashfield Teacher Award – Congratulations, Miss Cawley!

We are absolutely delighted to share that **Miss Cawley** was honoured at the **Discover Ashfield Awards** on Friday 27th February, receiving the Teacher Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to our school community.

This achievement not only celebrates the **exceptional work of Miss Cawley**, but also reflects the dedication, passion, and teamwork of all staff at Hucknall Flying High Academy. Those who work closely with her will know just how richly deserved this recognition is—her commitment to our children, her creativity in the classroom, and her unwavering positivity make a genuine difference every single day.

The award ceremony itself was an inspiring occasion, shining a light on the incredible individuals who go above and beyond for their communities across Ashfield. It was wonderful to see Miss Cawley celebrated among such remarkable people.

We are extremely proud of her and grateful for everything she brings to our school. Congratulations, Miss Cawley—what a fantastic achievement!



Welcoming Back Mrs Howard

We are delighted to share some lovely news as we begin the summer term: Miss Wheatley is returning from maternity leave—and is now known as **Mrs Howard** following her marriage during her time away! We are thrilled for her and her family, and we look forward to having her back as part of our school community once again.



Mrs Howard will be rejoining us for the first half of the summer term, providing **additional teaching capacity across Upper Key Stage 2**. Her return brings not only her teaching expertise, but also familiarity, positivity, and commitment to helping children thrive.

Please join us in offering Mrs Howard a very warm welcome back—and in congratulating her on the wonderful milestones she has celebrated while away. We're so pleased to have her back with us.

A Fond Farewell to Mrs Wilkinson



As we head towards the end of term, we say a very heartfelt goodbye to someone who has been part of the very fabric of Hucknall Flying High Academy since the very beginning. **Miss Wilkinson**, who joined us just before the school opened its doors in 2019, is moving on to an exciting new chapter—and although we will miss her deeply, we could not be prouder of all she has contributed during her time with us.

Over nearly seven years, Miss Wilkinson has worked across year groups from Early Years right through to Year 5, bringing her warmth, expertise, and unwavering commitment to every child she has supported. Her journey with our school has been remarkable: from helping to shape our very first cohorts, to being a key presence for pupils and families year after year. There is hardly a child in our school who hasn't been taught by her, helped by her, or greeted with her positivity and care.

Miss Wilkinson has been an extremely valued member of our community—someone who can always be relied upon, someone who always put children first, and someone whose kindness made a genuine difference every single day – living our values of being kind, working hard and flying high. Her impact is woven into the story of our school's growth, and into the learning journeys of so many pupils who have flourished with her encouragement.

Though we are very sad to see her go, we are also thrilled for her as she embarks on her new venture—returning to college assessment of Teaching Assistant trainees. It feels incredibly fitting that she will now be shaping and inspiring the next generation of support staff, passing on the same dedication and heart that she brought to Hucknall Flying High Academy.

Miss Wilkinson, thank you for everything: your loyalty, your compassion, your humour, and your belief in our children. You leave with our deepest gratitude and the warmest of wishes. You will always be part of the Hucknall Flying High family.

A Truly Wonderful Family Celebration



What a fantastic occasion our Family Celebration proved to be last Thursday and Friday. It was a real pleasure to welcome so many of you into school to share these special moments with your children. The atmosphere across both days was filled with pride, joy, and genuine connection, as families gathered and enjoyed cakes and refreshments in a relaxed, welcoming environment.



Events like this remind us just how strong our school community is. Seeing children beam as they showed their work to parents, carers, grandparents, and siblings was a highlight for all of us. Thank you for taking the time to join us—your presence makes these celebrations truly meaningful.



A huge amount of behind-the-scenes effort goes into making events like this run smoothly, and I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. Our office team (Mr Shacklock and Mrs Whitt) worked tirelessly to coordinate communication and organisation; our midday team (Mrs Bailey, Mrs Thorne and Mrs Potton) supported the smooth running and flow of the event; Mr Dempsey provided invaluable practical support; and Mr Rowlett and Miss Morris ensured entry and transitions were well-managed and welcoming throughout.

A big thank you to **each member of staff** who played a part. Your teamwork and commitment made this a memorable experience for our families and children alike.

Year 5 Hathersage Residential



Two weeks ago, our Year 5 pupils set off on a truly transformative residential adventure in the beautiful village of **Hathersage**, made even more memorable by the spell of glorious weather they enjoyed throughout their stay. Over the course of three action-packed days, the children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, demonstrating great behaviour, maturity, and a wonderful spirit of teamwork.

From taking on a long and demanding walk up **Stanage Edge** to navigating a range of outdoor pursuits, the children showed remarkable **independence, resilience, and determination**. Many pushed themselves well beyond their comfort zones, discovering new strengths and building a deeper sense of confidence along the way. It was heart-warming to see them support one another, celebrate each other's successes, and take such joy in the shared experience.

Beyond the physical challenges, the residential provided something just as important—a chance for the children to deepen friendships, enjoy time away from home, and immerse themselves in the natural beauty of the Peak District. Laughter, teamwork, curiosity, and awe-inspiring views filled each day, creating memories that will stay with them for years to come.

We extend our deepest thanks to Mr Nightingale, Miss Castledine, Mrs Keen, Mr Rowlett, Mr Chambers, and Miss Wilkinson for their dedication, care, and tireless commitment throughout the trip. Their hard work ensured that every child had a safe, enriching, and immensely enjoyable experience.

Well done, Year 5—you represented our school brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of you.



Science Day

A Day of Inspiring Science Learning

This week, our children were treated to a truly inspiring day of scientific discovery, thanks to the generosity and expertise of **Chloe Woodward**, a secondary science teacher and a much-valued member of our parent community. We were incredibly grateful to welcome her into school to share her passion for science in such an engaging and memorable way.

Under Chloe's guidance, pupils took part in a series of hands-on practical investigations that brought real scientific thinking to life. They explored chromatography—playfully applying the technique through “hair-dye” experiments on troll figures—and investigated forces by testing how much force is needed to make a party popper *finally* go pop.

Throughout the day, the children demonstrated fantastic curiosity, and enthusiasm, fully immersing themselves in each challenge. It was wonderful to see the sessions buzzing with excitement, thoughtful questions being asked, and scientific methods being used so confidently and naturally.

This enriching experience not only deepened pupils' understanding of key scientific concepts but also ignited their sense of wonder, showing how powerful and enjoyable experiential learning can be.

We extend our **sincere thanks to Chloe** for giving her time so generously and for creating such a memorable and meaningful learning opportunity for our children.

What a brilliant day of science in action!

Parents Evenings

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent evening sessions last week. The events were exceptionally well attended, and it was a pleasure to share children's learning, achievements, and the wonderful progress they continue to make. As always, these evenings are a valuable opportunity to celebrate the hard work of our pupils and the supportive partnership we have with our families.



Dress in Red – Comic Relief – Friday 20th March

This Friday is a day to come to school dressed in red for Comic Relief. Please bring £1 donation to support this charitable cause. More than just a bit of fun, this is a chance to come together as a school community and make a difference. Your £1 donation, no matter how small, will contribute to vital projects that support vulnerable individuals both here in the UK and across the globe. Let's show the power of our collective generosity.

Best wishes,

Mr K Clowery

